

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 SAM-01

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EURE-00 L-02

SCA-01 /053 W

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P R 121545Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 53

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6058

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR COOPER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING OPENING
OF EMBASSY

REFS: (A) EMB BERLIN 6038; (B) STATE 245647;
(C) LONDON 14731

1. IN LIGHT OF COLITT ARTICLE IN NOVEMBER 10
OBSERVER (TEXT REF C), WE NOW BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE
TO DEVELOP FURTHER PRESS GUIDANCE. PRESS
SPECULATION THAT OUR "DELAY" IN OPENING THE EMBASSY IS POLITICAL
SHOULD BE COUNTERED, AND ANY PUBLIC
IMPRESSION THAT EAST GERMANS ARE SOMEHOW
TEMPORIZING SHOULD BE CORRECTED TO AVOID AROUSING
GDR DISTRUST WHICH COULD ONLY COMPLICATE THE EARLY
PHASE OF OUR RELATIONS.

2. WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING POINTS BE EMPHASIZED IN
NEW PRESS GUIDANCE, FOR USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS:

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A. A FIRM DATE FOR OPENING THE EMBASSY HAS NEVER

BEEN SET. THE DATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONTINGENT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FACTORS THAT ACCOMPANY THE OPENING OF ANY NEW POST.

B. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. COOPER PLAN TO ARRIVE IN BERLIN ON DEC 3, AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

C. NO FACTORS AFFECTING THE EXACT OPENING DATE ARE POLITICAL; THEY ARE ALL ADMINISTRATIVE.

D. COOPERATION FROM THE EAST GERMANS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE EMBASSY OPENING HAS SO FAR BEEN EXCELLENT.

E. WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO OPEN THE EMBASSY WHEN THE AMBASSADOR HAS ARRIVED IN BERLIN.

3. WE EXPECT SOME PRESS QUERIES TO FOCUS ON THE HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE RESIDENCE, SPECIFICALLY ON THE QUESTION OF WHY RENOVATIONS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN AT THIS LATE DATE WHEN WE HAVE PLANNED TO USE THE HOUSE AS A TEMPORARY AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR SOME TIME NOW. WE FAVOR A STRAIGHTFORWARD RESPONSE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM THAT INSPECTED HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE LAST SUMMER HAD A NECESSARILY BRIEF LOOK AT THE RESIDENCE, AND THE NEED FOR MINOR RENOVATIONS BECAME APPARENT ONLY WHEN THE INITIAL EMBASSY STAFF HAD ARRIVED IN BERLIN IN OCTOBER AND HAD A CHANCE TO INSPECT THE HOUSE THOROUGHLY. UNQUOTE

4. ONCE AGAIN, WE RECOMMEND THAT ANY IMPLICATION OF FOOT-DRAGGING BY THE EAST GERMANS BE AVOIDED. ANY COMMENT ON "DELAY" SHOULD BE COUCHED IN ADMINISTRATIVE TERMS WITH SPECULATION ON POLITICAL FACTORS DISMISSED.

5. FYI: REF C SUMMARY OF OBSERVER ARTICLE CONTAINS ONE INACCURACY. ARTICLE IN FACT SAYS EAST GERMANS MAY BELIEVE US INTENDS TO USE DELAY TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS, NOT THAT US FEARS EAST GERMANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL USE "POLITICAL AFFRONT" TO OWN ADVANTAGE.GROVE

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